

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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SUBJ: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON AFRO-ARAB MEETINGS,
DJIBOUTI, COMOROS, GUINEA AND KENYA-UGANDA CONFLICT

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 3 GOS FORNMIN SECK PUBLICLY DISCUSSED CURRENT SENEGALESE-EGYPTIAN COMPETITION TO HOST AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UK WOULD EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE RHODESIAN SITUATION, CALLED FOR INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI GUARANTEED BY NEIGHBORING STATES, AND REITERATED VIEW THAT MAYOTTE PART OF INDEPENDENT COMOROS. SECK SAID KENYA-UGANDA CONTRETEMPS DID NOT NECES- SARILY INDICATE AFRICAN IMMATURITY, BUT RATHER REFLECTED COMMON STATE OF AFFAIRS BETWEEN DEVELOPING STATES. HE CLAIMED UNCLASSIFIED

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GAMBIA'S MEDIATION EFFORT BETWEEN SENEGAL AND GUINEA WAS STILL

IN PROCESS, SAYING IT WAS NECESSITATED BY JOINT SENEGALESE-GAMBIAN PLAN TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL LAKE BACKING INTO GUINEA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MARCH 3 PRESS CONFERENCE, GOS FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK COMMENTED ON AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING, RHODESIA, DJIBOUTI, COMOROS, KENYA-UGANDA DISPUTE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH GUINEA. (HE ALSO DISCUSSED WESTERN SAHARA, ANGOLA AND US "REPRISALS" OVER UN VOTING, AS REPORTED SEPTELS).

3. AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: SECK SAID SENEGAL HAD BEEN ASKED TO HOST CONFERENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, BEFORE OAU RECEIVED SENEGAL'S CONCURRENCE, EGYPT OFFERED TO HOST SAME MEETING. CONSULTATIONS WERE NOW TAKING PLACE WITH EGYPT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON VENUE. SECK STRESSED THAT SENEGAL AND EGYPT ENJOYED VERY GOOD RELATIONS, BUT SAID EGYPT HAD ASKED FOR DELAY IN REACHING DECISION DUE TO SADAT'S ABSENCE FROM CAIRO. ASKED IF MINISTERIAL MEETING COULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN EGYPT WITH PROJECTED AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN DAKAR, SECK REPLIED THAT SENEGAL DID NOT HAVE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE TO WELCOME SO MANY CHIEFS OF STATE WITH ACCOMPANYING DELEGATIONS. SECK SAID MEETINGS WOULD BE CONCERNED WITH DOCUMENTS LINKING AFRICAN AND ARAB WORLDS "IN TOTAL COMPREHENSION IN ALL FIELDS." SECK SAID DOCUMENT WAS ALREADY IN PREPARATION AND "SHUTTLLING" BETWEEN AFRICAN AND ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS.

4. RHODESIA: SECK SAID OAU WAS NOT INVOLVED IN DISPUTE BETWEEN NKOMA AND MUZOREWA FACTIONS. OAU RECOGNIZED ONLY ONE ANC AND HELD THAT INTERNAL PERSONAL RIVALRIES WERE ONLY OVER DIFFERENCE IN METHOD. NOTING OAU'S TEN-YEAR OLD DEMAND FOR INTERVENTION IN RHODESIA BY ADMINISTERING POWER, SECK SAID AFRICA WOULD "TAKE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION" OF VIGOROUS BRITISH ACTION TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WHILE UK HAD NOT OVERTLY ENCOURAGED SMITH REGIME, IT HAD NOT DONE MUCH TO DATE ASIDE FROM GREENHILL INITIATIVES. STRESSING SENEGAL'S "EXCELLENT RELATIONS" WITH BRITAIN, SECK EXPRESSED HOPE THAT UK WOULD EXERCISE ITS INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE PROBLEM RAPIDLY IN DIRECTION OF "INCUNTESTABLE" BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

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5. DJIBOUTI: SECK WAS ASKED WHAT POSITION SENEGAL WOULD TAKE AS MEMBER OF 8-NATION OAU COMMISSION ON DJIBOUTI. HE REPLIED THAT GOS HAD ALWAYS HELD VIEW THAT PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI, IF THEY DESIRE IT, MUST HAVE FULL AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE. HE SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF GUARANTEES BY NEIGHBORING STATES OF INDEPENDENT DJIBOUTI'S EXISTENCE.

6. COMOROS: SECK REITERATED GOS SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF

COMORAN STATE WITHIN COLONIAL BOUNDARIES, INCLUDING MAYOTTE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SENEGALESE VIEW DIFFERED FROM THAT OF "OUR FRENCH FRIENDS," BUT POINTED OUT THAT SENEGAL AND FRANCE DID NOT ALWAYS TAKE SAME POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

7. KENYA-UGANDA: SECK DISAGREED WITH JOURNALIST'S SUGGESTION THAT AFRICANS LACKED MATURITY TO TRANSCEND SUCH PROBLEMS. RATHER, HE SAID THAT STATES WHICH "LIVE AND DEVELOP ALWAYS JOSTLE THINGS IN THE PROCESS." HE POINTED TO SUDAN-ETHIOPIA DISPUTE AND "SMALL CONFLICTS" SENEGAL HAD WITH ITS NEIGHBORS BEFORE PRESENT EXEMPLARY RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED. SECK CITED SENEGAL'S CLOSE COOPERATION WITH GAMBIA--"EVEN THOUGH IT NEARLY CUTS SENEGAL IN HALF"--AS PRIME EXAMPLE OF WELL-BALANCED RELATIONS.

8. GUINEA: SECK CLAIMED MEDIATION EFFORT BETWEEN SENEGAL AND GUINEA UNDERTAKEN BY PRES. JAWARA OF GAMBIA WAS STILL IN PROCESS. SENEGALESE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAD BEEN TERMINATED. SECK SAID ONE REASON FOR EFFORT TO RESTORE GOOD RELATIONS WITH GUINEA LAY IN TWO DAMS WHICH GAMBIA AND SENEGAL PLAN ON GAMBIA RIVER. SINCE ARTIFICIAL LAKE IN GUINEA WOULD BE CREATED, IT WAS "EVIDENT" THAT WE CANNOT CONSTRUCT DAMS WITHOUT GUINEAN AUTHORIZATION."
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